Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1781 - September 30 2011

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1781 with a release date of Friday, September 30th, 2011 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. FEMA issues new emergency communications guidelines to the public but neglects to mention any form of personal two way radio. Also, scouting gets ready for the annual Jamboree On The Air, the leader of the aborted DX0DX Spratley Island operation says all donations will be refunded in full, CQ Publishing to offer all of its magazines in the digital domain and a ham radio song gets a new look on the World-Wide-Web. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1781 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: FCC AND FEMA ISSUE PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS EMCOMM TIPS TO THE PUBLIC BUT NEGLECT TWO-WAY RADIO

The FCC and FEMA have issued guidelines on what steps citizens should take before, during and after a local disaster, but no personal form of two way radio is included. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM is here with the details:

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In an FCC press release, Chairman Julius Genachowski said that when disaster strikes, the ability to communicate is essential. However, power outages and other issues can interfere with the way people ordinarily communicate, making it harder to reach loved ones or emergency services.

Genachowski noted that the FCC is committed to ensuring the public's safety through the reliability of our nation's communications networks. But there are also simple steps that consumers can take to prepare for a disaster as well as practical ways to better communicate during and after an event. As such, Genachowski encourages all Americans to become familiar these the new communications tips and share them with friends and family.

Also making a statement was FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. He said that between the East Coast earthquake, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and wildfires in Texas and California, the public has received a lot of powerful reminders that disasters can strike anytime. This in turn and can often make it difficult for the public to communicate with friends, loved ones or emergency personnel.

Fugate said that an important part of preparing for disasters includes getting ready for potential communications challenges. He called the new guidelines simple tips that are easy for anyone to follow and could make a world of difference when it matters the most.

Among the simple steps suggested by the two agencies is to keep charged batteries and car-phone chargers available for back-up power for your cell phone. Also to not rely on Internet based telephones that come with bundled services. This means having hard copper wire service between you and the phone company central office. Also, keep at least one non-cordless wireline phone in your home because in most cases it will work even if you lose power. Also have a battery powered radio or television receiver available along with some spare batteries.

It should be noted that personal communications services including 11 meter C-B, the Family Radio Service and Amateur Radio were not mentioned in the new tips jointly issued by FEMA and the FCC. There is no mention of having a set of inexpensive Family Radio Service in your home. Nothing said about owning a battery powered C-B radio set to the local REACT channel or getting to know a neighbor who is a ham radio operator that will likely have communications when all else has failed.

The tips do note that broadcasters are a strong source of time critical information but also note that citizens should avoid putting strain on easily overburdened wireless service networks by watching streaming broadcasts and other high bandwidth services.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

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You can see the entire lists by taking your web browser to tinyurl.com/fcc-emergency-advice. (FCC, TVBR, Others)

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RESTRUCTURING: REVISED REGION 1 HF BANDPLAN UNVEILED

A revised International Amateur Radio Union Region One High Frequency Band Plan has been published. The changes are minor, and affect only the 40 and 10 meter bands in Europe, Africa and the middle-East.

On 40 meters, the CW contest-preferred segment of 7 point 000 to 7 point 025 MHz has been withdrawn. In practice this means in practice that CW contests on 40 meters are no longer confined to the first 25 kHz segment.

On 10 meters the changes are to the FM portion of the band. This includes adjustments to the simplex channels and the addition of four new repeater channels. A copy of the new IARU Region One High Frequency Band Plan can be obtained at www.irts.ie/downloads. (IARU -R1)

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HAM RADIO AND SCOUTING: JOTA 2011 - OCTOBER 15 - 16

Get Ready for Scouting's Jamboree on the Air. This year's JOTA takes place on October 15th and 16th. Amateur radio Newsline's Mark Abramovich, NT3V, is here with the details:

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This international event is getting a big push this year from the Boy Scouts of America, which, in cooperation with the American Radio Relay League, has been promoting not only participation of Scouts, but ham mentors who have a great opportunity to become Elmers to the next generation of potential radio operators.

Jim Wilson, K5ND, is the national organizer for the Boy Scouts of America participation in Jamboree on the Air...

"Jamboree on the Air is the largest Scouting event in the world," Wilson explains. "Last year, the World Organization of Scouting Movement reported just over 700,000 Scouts participated in the event from just under 6,000 stations around the world."

This year, Wilson says the BSA and ARRL, have teamed up to boost U.S. involvement. And, so far, the numbers are looking pretty good.

"We have 76 stations registered and if we count up the number of participants that they're expecting at their event, we're right around 10,000," Wilson says.

Many of the American stations will be setting up at weekend camporees or jamborees with a big opportunity to introduce Scouts to the fun of talking on the radio, using a computer for PSK activity, or even talking to an astronaut.

"NA1SS, which is the International Space Station, is going to be on the air throughout the JOTA weekend," Wilson says. "Astronaut Mike Fossum (KF5AQG), who is also a Scoutmaster, is going to be on the air during breaks from his work schedule.

"And, they think he's going to be available most of the passes around the world. The uplink is 144.490 and the downlink is 145.800 megahertz. So watch for that. I think that will be pretty cool."

Wilson, is also the new trustee for the Boy Scouts of America K2BSA call sign. He says you'll hear that and other special call signs on during JOTA.

"K2BSA actually has authorized some operations in California, here in Texas, in Alabama,"

Wilson says. "A number of 1-by-1 call signs like W2H is out of the Southern New Jersey Council and there's quite a few others."

Wilson cautions that JOTA operators, in the excitement of the moment, have to also be aware of third-party agreements.

"We have some information on that on our website, thirdparty traffic agreements," Wilson says. "So, if they're talking with a particular country that doesn't allow thirdparty traffic, they do need to be cautious.

"The ARRL keeps that list up to date working with the IARU and so we

link to that list and we warn them about those concerns because we don't want to get anybody into trouble."

Wilson says the best resource on JOTA right now is the BSA's own website, which contains all the right links.

"We offer a website with resources on there for Scouting leaders and for amateur radio operators to get involved in Jamboree on the Air," Wilson says. And that's at www.scouting.org/jota."

Look for KC3BSA, Venture Crew 59's station on the air from eastern Pennsylvania on JOTA Friday night and Saturday during JOTA. Stop by and talk to some of our Scouts. For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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If you have the time, please get on the air October 15th and 16th, and support this very worthwhile scouting and ham radio event. (ARNewsline(tm), NT3V)

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DX NEWS: VK3FY SAYS ALL DX0DX DONATIONS WILL BE REFUNDED IN FULL

Chris Dimitrijevic, VK3FY, says that every dollar donated to the now cancelled DX0DX Spratley Island DXpedition will be refunded. In an e-mail to Newsline, VK3FY says that as the organizer and team leader of the DX0DX operation that he will refund every team member, sponsor and the generous DX foundations the full amount of their contribution payment made.

Previously, it was announced that the refunds may be less than the amount contributed.   But in his e-mail to us VK3FY says that he has decided that he will personally make up any monetary shortfalls from his own funds.

As reported last week, the long planned DX0DX was cancelled due to concerns about the personal safety of those traveling in the

For information concerning DX0DX refunds including refunds to DX Foundations please e-mail chris (at) vk3fy (dot) com. We will have more DX related stories as the end of this weeks newscast. (Via e-mail from VK3FY)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Three Rivers Amateur Radio Club repeater serving Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO LAW: GOP QUESTIONS FCC SPECTRUM GRANT TO LIGHTSQUARED

Opponents of the proposed LightSquared national broadband network operating adjacent to Global Positioning System or GPS frequencies have new allies. The Republican party. Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has more in this report:

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The proposed LightSquared high speed broadband network appears to be becoming a true political hot potato. This as the GOP raises the question of political favoritism in the FCC granting of a permit to the company to begin experimental construction of the system almost a year ago.

On Thursday, September 8th several leading Republicans questioned why the Federal Communications Commission fasttracked an initial approval of the LightSquared proposal. A company that the GOP claims to have ties among Democrats. It also questions the use of spectrum that other agencies say disrupts GPS devices that are an integral part of hurricane-tracking systems, military and commercial airlines and millions of civilian users.

At a House hearing, Republicans criticized the FCC for not using its own engineers to examine whether LightSquared's technology posed interference issues. The agency admitted that it relied on tests run by LightSquared and the Global Positioning System supply industry. But the FCC has defended its process, saying it has led to better understanding of an emerging technology.

Republican lawmakers note that the FCC gave a crucial green light this past January for LightSquared to begin building its system without a full commission vote. This, despite warnings from companies and federal agencies that the satellite network would harm communication systems essential to national security and public safety.

An FCC spokeswoman added that the agency granted expedited approval for LightSquared's proposed national broadband system only on the condition that the company resolves interference problems with GPS providers and other technologies.

But GOP lawmakers and members of a coalition formed by the GPS industry noted that the spectrum used by LightSquared was never intended for cellular telephones or other broadband devices. Rather back in 2002 the FCC granted a license to LightSquared, then known as SkyTerra, on the condition that its primary business would be to provide services for satellite phones.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, following the politics from Scottsdale, Arizona.

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With Republicans and Democrats in Congress at odds over just about

every issue, the LightSquared proposed broadband communications system could find itself trapped in a long and very bitter political power play. (Published News Reports)

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ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED STATION IN PUERTO RICO FINED $15000

The FCC has issued a $15000 Notice of Apparent Liability to Eleuterio Lebron of Guayama, Puerto Rico. This for operating a radio station without Commission authorization to be on the airwaves.

After receiving an interference complaint this past June, agents from the San Juan office traced the source of radio transmissions on 88.5 MHz to a building in the city of Guayama. They then made measurements and determined the signals exceeded Part 15 operation limits. During a station inspection, Lebron confirmed over the phone that he owned the station. He then told the operator on duty to take the station off the air.

In issuing its decision to fine Lebron the FCC said thathe controlled the station's operations, and the agency found that he willfully operated the station in apparent violation of the rules. Because the operation occurred on more than one day, the regulatory agency also found that the apparent violation was repeated.

The base fine for operating a station without a license is $10,000. Because Lebron had been warned verbally and in writing illegal back in February 2010 that operating a station without a license was, and continued to operate the station anyhow, the commission tacked on another $5,000, bringing the total fine to $15,000.

Lebron was given the customary 30 days to pay or ask to have the fine cancelled or reduced. (FCC)

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RADIO BUSINESS: CQ PUBLISHING TO OFFER ALL MAGAZINES IN DIGITAL FORMAT

New York based hobby electronics publisher Richard Ross, K2MGA, has announced that his CQ Communications will launch multi-platform digital editions of all of its magazine titles before the end of 2011. These titles include CQ magazine, CQ VHF, Popular Communications and WorldRadio Online.

According to Editorial Director Rich Moseson, W2VU, the digital editions will supplement, not replace, current print editions, and will feature enhancements not possible in the print medium. Versions will be available for a variety of online and mobile platforms including PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Android 2.0 and higher.

Examples of features that will be possible in the digital world include live links to all World Wide Web addresses listed in each issue as well as supplemental content. This will include such additions as photo albums, audio and video files, software and more.

The digital editions of the CQ publications will be hosted by Zinio dot com. Zinio is one of the top names in the emagazine publiushing business. Moseson says that CQ's choosing of Zinio will assure that our magazines will always be able to take advantage of new technology when it becomes available.

The digital launch will begin in late October with the November issue of an enhanced, multi-platform, version of WorldRadio Online, which will again become a paidsubscription publication. This will be followed by the November issue of CQ, which, appropriately, is the magazine's first annual Technology Special. The fall issue of CQ VHF and the December issue of Popular Communications will round out the introductions.

Digital editions will be available by single copy and by subscription. Details will be in the near future in the magazines and on all CQ Communications websites. Moseson noted that many CQ book titles are already available in digital form on CD. (CQ)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: AMSAT 2011 SYMPOSIUM - NOVEMBER 4 - 6 IN SAN JOSE CA

Turning to ham happenings, the 2011 AMSAT Space Symposium will be held November 4th through the 6th at the Wyndham Airport hotel in San Jose, California. This annual gathering will feature sessions on satellite operating techniques, the latest plans from the amateur satellite world and much more. Coinciding with the symposium, the AMSAT Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting at the same venue on November 3rd and 4th. If you plan to attend either or both, you can register on-line at tinyurl.com/space-symposium-reg (ANS)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: MUD 2011 OCT. 13 - 16 IN CONNECTICUT

The North East Weak Signal Group is sponsoring the combined Eastern VHF/UHF conference and Microwave Update 2011 Conference. The dates are October 13th to the 16th at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Enfield, Connecticut. As a special treat this year a tour of the Haystack Observatory in Massachusetts will be available to those interested. More about this once a year gathering is on-line at www.microwaveupdate.org (WZ1V, VHF Reflector)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: "THE FINAL LAUNCH" TEAM EFFORT CONTINUES

And a follow up to a previous story about Special Event Station N4S that recently commemorated "The Final Launch" of America's Space Shuttle Program. This with the flight of Atlantis from the Kennedy Space Center on mission STS-135.

It turns out that during its operation, N4S made 2,956 contacts world-wide and QSL requests are being processed. Several "QSL parties" by members of the North Brevard Amateur Radio Club are making progress

in responding to all of those amateur radio operators requesting confirmation. More about this one is on-line at www.northbrevardamateurradioclub.com (AA4MI)

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ON THE AIR: VA3IF IN MEMORY OF PEACE AND REMEMBRANCE

Canada's Guelph Amateur Radio Club will once again be operating special event station VA3IF at the birthplace of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae House in Guelph, Ontario. John McCrae was the author of the poem "In Flanders Fields". The station will honor the twin concepts of peace and remembrance. It will operate from the McCrae House Museum from November 5th to the 11th on 80 through 10 meters as well as IRLP node 2260. (VE3XTM via RAC)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: REP. GREG WALDEN W7EQI GIVEN FAITH & FREEDOM AWARD

Some names in the news this week. First up is United States Representative Greg Walden, W7EQI, of Oregon who was recently presented the Faith and Freedom Award. This, by the National Religious Broadcasters its at its annual Capitol Hill Media Summit.

Greg Walden is the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. The Faith and Freedom Award award is presented annually to a legislator who is considered to be a stalwart defender of religious liberty. Past recipients include Congressman Mike Pence of Indiana and former U.S Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas. (RW)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: CO6CBF MAY BE FIRST SATELLITE VUCC FROM CUBA

Hector Martinez, CO6CBF, has uploaded his 100th satellite QSL in Logbook of the World and is expected to become the first satellite VUCC award recipient in Cuba. Meantime, George Carr, WA5KBH says that he has received the satellite contact logs and cards from Hector and is ready to perform as QSL manager. Contacts from CO6CBF home grid of EL92 and his recent trip to EL91 and FL01 are being processed. If you have made contact with Hector, please send your cards to his callbook address and include a SASE. (WA5KBH)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS, W8ILC RETIRES FROM ARRL FIELD ORGANIZATION AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

And after more than five decades of continuous service, Ron Moorefield, W8ILC, has announced that he is retiring from the ARRL Field Organization effective October 1st.

Currently the District Emergency Coordinator for Ohio District Three, W8ILC began his volunteer service back in 1960 as the Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Ohio's Montgomery, Preble and Greene Counties in 1960. In 1963 he was appointed Emergency Coordinator for these same counties from 1963 to 1983. When the ARRL started the District Emergency Coordinator position, he took on that role and served in it to the present.

Over his five decades of service, Moorefield was involved in a number of major emergency response callouts. These include the 1974 and 2000 Xenia tornadoes, the September 1978 Miamisburg train derailment, several blizzards, numerous ice storms and many floods.

During his tenure, Moorefield said that his group developed a very good relationship with the American Red Cross and many other served agencies. In announcing his retirement W8ILC said that he will continue to support ARES but that after more than 50 years that he feels its time to turn group's leadership over to new blood.

In addition to his five decade participation in Ohio ARES Moorefield has also been one of the true guiding lights of the yearly Dayton Hamvention since its inception. (ARNewsline(tm))

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ON THE AIR: NEW 6 METER NET IN GEORGIA

A group of hams near Atlanta, Georgia, have begun a weekly 6 meter net and welcome everyone who might wish to participate. Check in is at 00:30 UTC on 50.155 Mhz. The gathering is kept informal and conducted for the purpose of increasing the activity level on the 6 meter band. The current net control station is Rob Momon, N4VPI, located in La Grange about 60 miles southwest of Atlanta. If you hear them, please join in. (W4GCB)

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ON THE AIR: ANNOUNCING REGISTRATION FOR ILLW 2012

With 11 months to go, some 70 entities have already signed up almost instantly after registration for the 2012 International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend opened. This fun ham radio celebration continues to grow and it's no surprise that those already listed make an early commitment to show their strong support.

The 2012 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend will be held on August 18th and 19th. Ongoing information along with registration can

be found on-line at illw.net. You can also follow this event by becoming a friend of its Facebook page with more than 1,000 fans so far. (VK3PC)

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DX

In DX, word that Routuma Island should now be on the air. In a press release issued late last week the 3D2R team said that it had assembled in Suva, Fiji, and was preparing for its two day ocean voyage to Rotuma. They anticipated arriving late in the evening on September 27th and hoped to be on the air early on September 28th. If you make contact, QSL via YT1AD

W1UE will be operating from the 6Y1V contest station on Jamaica through October 4th. His activity will focus on the low bands using CW, SSB and RTTY, as time permits. QSL via his home callsign using any call directory dated 2009 or later.

DL2NUD, DL8YHR and DL9MS will be active as 8P9HP, 8P9DL and 8P9MS, respectively, from Barbados between November 7th and the 21st. Their operation will be on the High Frequency bands as well as 6 and 2 meter moonbounce. QSL via their home callsigns.

The countdown has started on the Mediterraneo DX Club's DXpedition to Nepal. This operation is slated to begin on November 13th and run through the 25th. More information on this one is on-line at www.mdxc.org/nepal2011

VE3EY and VE3TA will be active portable FJ from St. Barthelemy between November 22nd and the 29th. Using a T Oh 3 prefix callsign. Their operation will will include the CQ World Wwide DX CW Contest on November 26th and 27th as a Multi-Single entry. QSL via their home callsigns.

Lastly, word that DL5YMM will be active portable HK0 from San Andres Island from October 5th to the 13th. No operating times or frequencies have been announced. If you work him, QSL as directed on the air.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: COME AND JOIN US ON THE AIRWAVES REVISITED

And finally this week, the story of a music video about ham radio. It title is "Come and Join Us On The Airwaves" and it was written and performed by Andrew John Huddleston, OZ5E. Andrew, along with his wife Lissa Ladefoged, are country music devotees who live in Aarhus, Denmark, and are likely best known simply as The Ham Band. This, as a result of their 1994 CD of amateur radio related songs simply titled "Seek You."

About a decade ago, Andrew and Lissa produced a ham radio video titled "Come And Join Us On the Airwaves." The video features Andrew in a

tuxedo atop a 100 foot high tower and Lissa at the 60 foot level performing the song while un corking a bottle of Champaign. Unfortunately, when the video was posted to YouTube, the technology of the day did not do justice to the visual content. Now with the advent of High Definition video on the YouTube site, that has all changed:

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OZ5E: "The original version of the video that we uploaded to YouTube wasa actually quite good quality. I would say medium quality. It was viewed by about 18,000 people which I thought was quite impressive.

"And then the strangest thing happened. Some other people; I think two or three other individuals, have uploaded really low quality versions of the video (with) the wrong aspeact ratio and rotten sound and these versions have been viewed by no less than half a million people. So we thought to put the High Definition version out there so that people can see that our (ham) radio station is a very, very pretty one."

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Comparing the original posting to the new upload by Andrew using true 720p high definition video is breathtaking. Especially when you look past the singers on Andrew's tower and gaze at the splendor of the Danish countryside where it was produced. It's so sharp and crystal clear that its as close as one can get to being there. You can experience the new Hi Definition "Come And Join Us On The Airwaves" on YouTube. Just use the shortcut of tinyurl.com/ham-song.

The groups website is in cyberspace at www.hamband.com. And less we forget to mention it, everyone seen on the tower was using safety gear. (ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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